



August 25, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
WC Docket No. 03-109
WC Docket No. 05-337
CC Docket No. 01-92

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell and Clyburn:

The Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA) applauds the FCC's efforts to transition the Universal Service Fund to focus on expanding broadband access and subscription.

LISTA has maintained that programs that promote adoption should be the government's top funding priority. That's why we believe that reorganizing the fund to provide more financial support for Low Income Fund programs like Lifeline and LinkUp America should be the cornerstone of the FCC's reform effort.

This can be done easily and without painful cuts that would hinder the Commission's ability to achieve another important policy goal: encouraging broadband infrastructure build-out for the 9 million American households who today have no access to high-speed Internet networks. LISTA calls on the FCC to bring an immediate end to the practice of funding USF projects in high-cost areas where an existing ISP already provides service. Doing so will eliminate up to \$2 billion in annual subsidies that fund redundant networks, freeing up the funds for Low Income Fund use. It will also prevent further increases in the monthly USF charges paid by millions of American consumers, a tax that now constitutes over 15% on consumers' phone bills.

LISTA also recommends establishing a budget within the expanded Low Income programs for community outreach with the intent of engaging non-profit organizations and small businesses to help educate non-adopters on the benefits of broadband and the existence of Lifeline and LinkUp subsidies. Such an awareness program should be modeled after successful broadband adoption programs currently being implemented as a result of NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

LISTA is also encouraged by the Commission's attempt to pass on additional savings to consumers by establishing a lower compensation rate between telecommunications carriers. It is critical that the

Commission apply any lower rates immediately and uniformly to all telecommunications carriers, regardless of technology or geography. For the 2.8 million Latinos living in rural America, it is critical that any price relief that comes from a uniform inter-carrier compensation rate apply to all carriers—and all consumers.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to bridging the digital divide. As always, LISTA stands ready to assist the Commission on these and other important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose A. Marquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Jose A. Marquez
National President and CEO
Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA)